

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2507

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCUER

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TAGS: PFOR XF XI ET SU KU SA YE YS AG LY

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATIONS TO MEGREB AND MIDDLE

EAST RETURN

REFS: (A) KHARTOUM 2840 AND PREVIOUS;

(B) LONDON FBIS 171833ZDEC74 AND 191559ZDEC74;

(C) JIDDA 7396 AND PREVIOUS;

(D) LONDON FBIS 161629ZDEC74

SUMMARY. ETHIOPIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT EPMG DELS VISITED SIX
COUNTRIES IN MID-EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. THEY HAD "SUCCESSFUL"

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TALKS WITH LEADING FIGURES IN THESE STATES AND, WHILE CLARIFYING

SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA FOR THEM, RETURNED WITH HOPE THAT THE TIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE NATIONS VISITED MIGHT BE EXPANDED AND STRENGTHENED. END SUMMARY.

PRESS DECEMBER 29 AND 31 CARRIES CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL ON LABORS SUBJECT DELEGATIONS, WHICH IS SUMMARIZED BELOW:

1. TWO ETHIOPIAN GOODWILL DELEGATIONS RECENTLY VISITED SIX ARAB COUNTRIES IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, VIZ., SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN, ALGERIA AND LIBYA. DELEGATIONS DELIVERED MESSAGES FROM EPMG TO HEADS OF STATE THESE COUNTRIES. THEY ALSO CONDUCTED TALKS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES WITH RELEVANT RANKING OFFICIALS. DELEGATIONS RETURNED TO ETHIOPIA DECEMBER 27 AND BRIEFED PMAC MEMBERS ON "SUCCESSFUL RESULTS" THEIR MISSION.

2. PRESS REPORTS PMG SPOKESMAN STATED THAT DELS WERE SENT TO EXPLAIN "TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" AIMS OF ETHIOPIA'S MILITARY REFORM MOVEMENT AND LATTER'S POLICIES. THEY SET FORTH CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA AT PRESENT TIME, PARTICULARLY THAT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY PREVAIL IN ORDER COUNTER DISTORTED IMPRESSION WHICH GOVERNMENTS IN COUNTRIES VISITED MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE OBTAINED FROM "FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA." DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZED "TOTAL SUPPORT" WHICH MILITARY REFORM MOVEMENT ENJOYS FROM ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN POPULATION. IT ALSO DISCUSSED "COUNTRY'S UNITY."

3. SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY STATED THAT DELEGATIONS EXPLORED WAYS IN WHICH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THESE COUNTRIES MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED. SPOKESMAN SAID HAVE ADDED THAT DELEGATION SENT TO MIDDLE EAST EXPECTED TO HELP STRENGTHEN RELATIONS AMONG RED SEA RIPARIANS. HE REPORTEDLY POINTED TO SIMILARITIES IN CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD OCCURRED IN PDRY AND ETHIOPIA AND ASSERTED TNAT ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION HAD HAD USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PDRY OFFICIALS ON "CULTURAL MATTERS" EXPECTED TO HELP PROMOTE ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT. SPOKESMAN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PDRY HAD INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO RAISE ITS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ETHIOPIA TO EMBASSY LEVEL.

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4. DELEGATION WHICH VISITED NORTH AFRICA SAID HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION PROJECTS WITH COL. QADHAFI AND OTHER LIBYAN OFFICIALS. QADHAFI REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS READINESS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA "AT EMBASSY LEVEL."

5. COL. BOUMEDIENNE AND HIS COLLEAGUES SAID HAVE TOLD DELEGATION THAT ALGERIA PREPARED TO DO ALL T COULD TO SUPPORT AIMS OF

ETHIOPIAN MILITARY REFORM MOVEMENT. THE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ALGERIA WOULD SHORTLY SEND A RECIPROCAL GOODWILL MISSION TO ETHIOPIA.

6. PRESS QUOTES EPMG SPOKESMAN AS STATING THAT DELEGATIONS HAD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR "FRIENDLY WELCOME" ACCORDED THEM BY COUNTRIES VISITED AND READINESS THESE NATIONS' LEADERS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES AND WORK CLOSELY WITH ETHIOIAN GIVERNMENT.

7. EDITORIAL IN DECEMBER 31 HERALD HAILS THESE DEVELOPMENTS. IT EXPLAINS THAT DELEGATIONS REASSURED "OUR FRIENDS" ON ETHIOPIA'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED MUTUAL COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THEM. "THE INVIOLABILITY OF OUR UNITY" WAS ALSO EXPLAINED, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, CONCLUDING THAT ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY CERTAIN SECTORS OF (ETHIOPIAN) SOCIETY ARE OPPOSED TO THE UNITY OF THIS LAND, " THEY ARE A GROUP FIGHTING A LOST CAUSE."

8. COMMENT: GIVEN INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTELS, THE PRESENTATION TO THE ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE MISSIONS AS AN UNMITIGATED SUCCESS SEEMS RATHER DISINGENUOUS. NEVERTHELESS, WE SHALL SEEK TO ASCERTAIN IN THE DAYS TO COME WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND BELIEVE THAT EPMG EXPOSURE TO THE ATTITUDES OF ITS NEIGHBORS AND OF THOSE MOST DISTANT COUNTRIES WHICH PERCEIVE AN INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA MAY PROVE TO BE BOTH HEALTHY AND EDUCATIONAL. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE ARAB INTERLOCUTORS OF THESE DELS WOULD HAVE WARNED THEM AGAINST ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF AN UNBRIDLED POLICY OF FORCE BY THE EPMG IN ERITREA.
WYMAN

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